



REPORT

on the state of the

PUBLIC HEALTH

in the **Herts.**

URBAN DISTRICT OF BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT OF CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT OF RICKMANSWORTH

RURAL DISTRICT OF WATFORD

in the

COUNTY OF HERTFORD

WILLIAM NORMAN-TAYLOR, M.D.(Lond.), D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.S.H.

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SENIOR ASSISTANT
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER**

for the year

1964



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1964

To the Chairman and Members of:

the Urban District Council of Bushey,

the Urban District Council of Chorleywood,

the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth,

and

the Rural District Council of Watford

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report together with the Reports by the Chief Public Health Inspectors on their work in the Districts, for the year 1964.

The year under review is the first complete year during which I have had the honour to serve you as your Medical Officer of Health. In the Report which I presented to you last year I paid tribute to my predecessor, Dr. W. Harvey. At the same time I attempted to look into the future. I felt that not only had the person of your Medical Officer of Health changed but that we were in fact in the middle of a great change in emphasis in public health work in the country as a whole. This change began in 1948 when, under the National Health Service Act, all the “social” aspects of public health were taken over by the Counties (or County Boroughs). Since then it has become increasingly clear that the Medical Officer of Health, as Medical Officer of Health of a District only, has a rapidly diminishing role to play. Drainage and sanitation, traditionally the cradle of public health, has long since been taken care of by the engineers. Epidemic diseases, his chief *raison d'être*, have largely disappeared. He can take some of the credit for this but not all. The control of tuberculosis, for example, was taken over by his colleagues in the Counties, as was immunization against diphtheria, smallpox and whooping cough, and more latterly polio. Similarly credit for much of the present high standard of

general health in the community must go to the very able lieutenants of the health team, the public health inspectors, with the high standards in housing, food supplies, pest control and the like, which they insist on. Day in, day out, they keep a guardian eye on the conditions in which we live and have our being. Their work goes often unheralded, sometimes even resented, but without these standards we should soon be back with the pestilences of the middle ages.

Pestilence can, and sometimes does, break through even now—as happened at Aberdeen during the year. This outbreak, regrettable though it was, at least served to remind us of these ever present dangers and to warn us against complacency. At such times it becomes obvious that there must be in charge of the situation a fully trained epidemiologist, a doctor with the specialist qualifications that all Medical Officers of Health are required by law to have. It is here that the District M.O.H., armed with his local knowledge, steps into the front rank and takes up his traditional role once more. At such times the question “Is an M.O.H. really necessary?” becomes superfluous.

But nevertheless, no one can deny that the emphasis is changing from the environment and its dangers to society and its needs. The negative watching brief is being replaced by a positive fostering of good health. It is these aspects which have gone to the County, the care of mothers, babies, children and the aged, the provision of home helps (surely one of the most appreciated of all public health services) and the various other welfare activities. No Medical Officer of Health can properly fulfil his function as the doctor who looks after the public (that is his job) unless he has a hand in these aspects of public health in addition to his traditional fields.

When I took up my duties as your Medical Officer of Health in 1963, I felt acutely this lack; the fact that I had no part in this more active sphere of health work. In very few parts of the country does such a state of affairs exist and I at once set about attempting to bring my work into line with the usual practice elsewhere. Fortunately my views coincided with certain steps which the County Health and Welfare Committee had in mind. As a result of this not only I but yourselves too, the Councils, have been brought into County health work.

The eventual plan, of which I give more details further on in the body of my report, was not quite as I had hoped, but it is nevertheless to be welcomed as a bold and imaginative step towards involving the District Councils in this very important modern aspect of public health work.

In the following pages I present as I am required by law to do, a sum-

mary of my information regarding the state of the health of the people whom you represent.

In addition you will find listed the various activities of your health staff, undertaken with the object of safeguarding the well-being of the community which we are privileged to serve.

I am, ladies and gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. NORMAN-TAYLOR,
Medical Officer of Health

74, Mildred Avenue,
WATFORD,
Herts.

Telephone: WATFORD 26132.

THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE COMBINED DISTRICTS

VITAL STATISTICS*

Population

The Registrar General's estimates of the mid-year populations of the Districts, which form the basis for most of the statistical data in the reports, are analysed in the following table.

	<i>Population</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Natural</i>	
	<i>1964</i>	<i>1963</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Increase</i>	<i>Migration</i>
<i>Bushey</i>	23,450	22,520	930	211	719
<i>Chorleywood</i>	7,420	7,100	320	63	257
<i>Rickmansworth</i>	30,130	29,690	440	209	231
<i>Watford Rural</i>	60,810	60,000	810	317	493
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	121,810	119,310	2,500	800	1,700

Note: —“Natural Increase”; excess of live births over deaths.

The figures in the last column may include adjustments in the estimates of the previous year.

BIRTH RATE

The number of births, by sex, in each district is set out below. The basic figures have been corrected to exclude non-resident births (such as those occurring in the Bushey Maternity Home which caters for Middlesex County Council) and to include babies born outside the area (e.g. in Watford Borough) to parents resident in the area. The birth rates have also been corrected by a factor which allows for the age group composition of the population to make them comparable with the national rates. (This factor is given in brackets in the table).

The actual number of babies born during 1964 was a slight increase on the previous years figure. Birth rates remain much the same except a small rise in Chorleywood (which is not statistically significant). The national rate is provisionally estimated at 16.3 per 1,000 population.

* Further details are given for each District in the body of the Report.

Birth Rates

	Live Births				Still Births		Illigit.	Birth Rate	
	M	F	Totals	(1963)	No.	Rate	No.		
Bushey	225	191	416	(422)	4	9.62	11	17.19	(0.96)
Chorleywood	58	50	108	(75)	1	9.26	3	15.42	(1.05)
Rickmansworth	227	233	460	(449)	6	13.04	10	16.55	(1.07)
Watford Rural	407	396	803	(826)	8	9.96	57	13.07	(0.98)
Totals	917	870	1787	1764					

Changes in the Birth Rate

	1939	1951	1958	1961	1962	1963	1964
Bushey	13.0	15.1	16.1	15.8	17.1	18.0	17.19
Chorleywood	9.0	12.5	16.3	11.9	12.9	11.1	15.42
Rickmansworth	18.8	13.6	16.3	16.6	15.5	16.1	16.55
Watford Rural	13.9	17.0	15.5	14.8	13.8	13.5	13.07
England & Wales	14.7	15.5	16.4	17.4	18.0	18.2	16.3

DEATH RATES

The death rates in the Combined Districts remain, as before, lower than in England and Wales, where the rate per 1,000 population has dropped to 11.3 after its temporary rise in 1963. In the Combined Districts a similar drop has occurred. With the exception of Chorleywood, in which figures are too small to be significant, the rates are substantially lower than 1963, though not as low as has been the case in recent years.

CHANGES IN THE DEATH RATE

	1939	1951	1958	1961	1962	1963	1964 (Comp. Factor)
Bushey	7.9	9.9	8.6	8.5	8.7	10.9	10.5 (1.20)
Chorleywood	9.6	8.5	7.4	6.2	6.2	9.1	6.8 (1.13)
Rickmansworth	8.5	9.1	8.6	8.4	9.2	11.5	9.9 (1.19)
Watford Rural	8.8	7.1	8.5	8.7	9.3	10.2	9.6 (1.20)
England & Wales	12.1	12.5	11.7	11.9	11.9	12.2	11.3

Infantile mortality

The number of infants dying in their first year of life, out of every 1,000 born, is given in the following table. The marked improvement in recent years is being maintained, much of the credit for which must go to the County Maternity and Child Welfare Services. The rate for the Combined Districts is 15.6 which compares very favourably with the rate for England and Wales which last year at 20.0 was the lowest ever recorded.

	1939	1951	1958	1961	1962	1963	1964
Bushey	48	37	19.7	17.8	10.6	12.6	12.02
Chorleywood	29	0	29.1	12.0	11.0	0	27.78
Rickmansworth	32	14.0	17.9	10.4	24.2	13.4	19.57
Watford Rural	56	29	20.9	20.7	18.3	21.8	13.70
England & Wales	55.3	29.7	22.6	21.6	21.6	20.9	20.0

In the body of the report the ages at which infant deaths occurred are given and it will be seen that most of these in fact occurred in the first month of life. Deaths in this age group are known as *neonatal mortality*, and are usually attributed either to congenital defects, birth injuries or prematurity, whereas deaths after this age are more usually due to lack of proper care or proper hygienic precautions. The few deaths later in the first year of infant life reflect the better standards of care now being given.

No maternal deaths, or deaths due to pregnancy were recorded in any of the four Districts during the year.

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung

Cancer of the lung is a disease which is attracting attention due to its relationship with the cigarette smoking habit. The actual total of deaths has dropped slightly, which may be of possible significance, but the number of women affected continue to rise, a state of affairs which was predicted.

	1957			1959			1962			1963			1964		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Bushey	2	2	4	2	3	5	7	1	8	12	2	14	7	7	14
Chorleywood	3	1	4	2	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	1
Rickmansworth	11	0	11	11	1	12	12	2	14	15	4	19	10	4	14
Watford Rural	14	1	15	14	3	17	20	1	21	16	5	21	21	4	25
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	30	4	34	29	7	36	40	4	44	45	12	57	39	15	54
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England & Wales	19,820			21,063			23,779			24,426			25,371		
Male	17,040			18,181			20,278			20,742			21,476		
Female	2,780			2,882			3,501			3,680			3,895		

Deaths due to Accidents

Accidents are an increasingly important cause of death and the figures for recent years are given below: —

		1946	1956	1960	1962	1963	1964
Bushey:	Road	1	3	4	0	2	3
	Other	2	0	3	6	5	5
Chorleywood:	Road	1	1	1	1	0	0
	Other	1	3	0	2	3	0
Rickmansworth:	Road	0	2	4	4	0	6
	Other	4	9	7	2	7	9
Watford Rural:	Road	2	7	3	7	3	8
	Other	4	11	13	14	12	12

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

There was a decrease in the number of cases of *measles*, 508 cases having been notified during the year as compared with 1149 in 1963.

No case of *diphtheria* or *poliomyelitis* occurred during the year.

Typhoid

1. *Leavesden*. In February a small epidemic of 9 cases of typhoid fever occurred in Leavesden Hospital, a hospital for mentally sub-normal patients with about 2,000 beds and some 300 staff. The first case, a female patient aged 24, presented as an acute abdomen and was sent to a nearby general hospital for surgical opinion on 22nd February. Peritonitis ensued and she died three days after admission. Meanwhile a blood test (Widal) had proved to be positive for typhoid. I was at once informed. Since the patient had not been outside Leavesden Hospital the search for the source of infection was straightforward and was commenced without delay by the hospital staff. Out of 150 patients in the affected block, three carriers were found, excreting typhoid bacilli phage type N. Serological testing revealed, in addition to these three, two other patients with positive Vi agglutination, though stool culture was negative. One of the latter had had a cholecystectomy operation in 1962; many weeks later, after repeated examination, bacilli type N were cultured from her.

At first, because of their mental condition, the carriers and suspect cases were nursed at Leavesden, but it was later thought desirable to send them to isolation hospitals, even though this caused some nursing difficulties.

In such mental cases, symptoms and signs may be masked, so a careful check was kept on the temperatures of all contacts. Three weeks elapsed, and no new cases developed, and it was thought that the danger was past. However, on 25th March another mental patient started to run a fever, followed by six others in the next few days. All were sent to isolation hospitals, where in the subsequent weeks the diagnosis was definitely confirmed in four of them. Where cultures were positive, all bacilli were of the same phage type N. After this no further new cases occurred.

In August an isolation block was opened at Leavesden to which those thought to be still potential carriers were returned. In spite of intensive treatment at least one of these was still occasionally excreting bacilli at the end of the year.

The chief lessons drawn from this outbreak were (1) the insidious onset of this disease in mental patients; (2) the need for a more thorough search for carriers (it is thought that the cholecystectomy case was the most likely source here); and (3) the desirability of immunizing all staff and patients in such hospitals (this had been discontinued for some years).

The above brief account gives little indication of the amount of work involved in investigating such an outbreak. It was extremely fortunate for the Council's public health staff that it occurred in a hospital where there were medically trained staff available to carry out much of the routine work, and I wish to record my appreciation of their ready co-operation and assistance. The greatest burden fell on the staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Watford, who worked ceaselessly for many weeks examining several thousand different specimens. I should also record my appreciation of assistance and advice provided by the Ministry of Health.

2. *South Oxhey*. One small boy, aged 8, living on the L.C.C. Estate, developed a fever and was sent to Holywell Isolation Hospital on 2nd September, 1964. Blood culture proved to be positive for typhoid bacilli, as did the faeces. The bacilli were phage type A. An extensive search for the source of infection was

instigated but no clues were revealed. The boy according to his parents, had not been outside the Oxhey estate for more than three weeks, except for a visit to the children's paddling pool at Cassiobury Park, Watford Borough. This is regularly cleaned and chlorinated and there was no other suggestion that it could have been incriminated. The origin of the case remained a mystery.

Food Poisoning, Dysentery and Para-typhoid

There have been no serious outbreaks of food poisoning during the year but cases have occurred sporadically. Several of these have been contracted during Continental holidays. Similarly both dysentery and para-typhoid have been brought back from trips abroad. Dysentery continues to smoulder in the area, chiefly among school children.

Hepatitis

In May there was a short sharp outbreak of infectious hepatitis in a large private orphanage in one of the Districts. Out of 97 inmates, 18 developed jaundice over the course of two or three weeks, and in 22 others there were abdominal symptoms (chiefly vomiting) without jaundice. In addition one member of the staff was severely affected. The children were attending various County schools in the neighbourhood and those unaffected were not excluded. Local medical practitioners were kept informed but apparently no secondary cases developed outside. The cause was not traced, but was thought to have been contracted during the Easter holidays by the first affected child. The orphanage swimming bath, which was used by outside schools, was closed and certain suggestions regarding water purity were made. Suggestions were also made with a view to improving kitchen procedures in the school.

There were some ten other cases of hepatitis which came to my notice during the year, especially in the first half of the year. In one family three members were involved; in another two, but in most cases it was only one member of the family. No link with other cases could be established.

Hepatitis can be a serious disease causing permanent damage to the liver and increasing attention is being focussed on it. It has been notifiable in Hertfordshire since 1943 but, for some war-time reason, not in that part of the County falling within the Metropolitan Police District. Thus in Bushey, where the above outbreak took place, the disease is not notifiable.

Tuberculosis

It has become apparent during the year that for various reasons the figures relating to the notifications of this disease do not give a true picture of its incidence in this area. It is hoped that, following an improvement in my secretarial staff position, more reliable statistics will be forthcoming in future. Responsibility for the epidemiological side of the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis is the duty of the County Council, through their Tuberculosis Officer and his specially trained health visitors and social workers. Should legal action under the Public Health Acts become necessary, however, then the Local Authority, through the Medical Officer of Health, becomes involved. I am glad to say that this has not been necessary during the year. We also keep a careful watch to ensure that no person engaged in the food or milk trade is suffering from tuberculosis, nor anyone undertaking out-work for factories.

One of the most effective ways of combatting tuberculosis is by the prevention of overcrowding and the provision of modern, well-ventilated housing. Here too the Local Authority has an important part to play and during the year, following requests from the Tuberculosis Officer to look into certain cases, I have several times made recommendations to housing committees on these grounds.

The onset of tuberculosis is insidious and it is becoming more and more important to find the few remaining infectious cases. For this purpose mass

miniature radiography is ideally suited. Here we are indebted to the North West Regional Hospital Board for their mobile service which tours the area on a regular schedule and visits factories and other institutions. During 1964, however, only 4,506 persons were seen in the Combined District. Twenty-three were referred for further investigation. This is a very small proportion of the total population at risk. It may be mentioned in passing that a chest X-ray will reveal not only tuberculosis but also various other conditions, such as pneumoconiosis, chronic heart disease and lung cancer.

Tetanus

This disease, formerly known as "lockjaw", results from wounds which become contaminated by dirt. It is a disease which is entirely preventable by immunization, yet 30 to 40 people die every year in England and Wales from this cause. This is far more than die of poliomyelitis nowadays. Protection against tetanus has been offered to all infants attending the County Council Clinics during the past few years, so that there is a rising generation who will be protected. Has not the time come to offer this protection to all the population? For example, should we not ensure that all school leavers are protected before they leave our supervision? Some hospitals have taken it upon themselves to give immunization (in addition to curative serum) to all persons with accidental wounds. That hospitals should feel obliged to enter the field of preventive medicine, the sphere of the public health department, is an implied criticism of our efforts in this direction.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

This is a relatively rare disease (not to be confused with foot-and-mouth disease of cattle) in which a sore throat is followed by spots on the hands and feet and inside the mouth. It causes no serious complications. During June and July about a dozen cases occurred, mostly in the Croxley Green and Sarratt areas.

SEWERAGE

In my Report last year I drew attention, as was my duty, to the fact that a large proportion of the Combined District is still unsewered, although plans for connecting up this area have been under consideration for many years. Most of these people in fact have water-closets running into cess-pools, but there are still over two hundred dwellings which have not even got that and have to use a bucket at the bottom of the garden.

During the year numerous complaints have been received concerning the state of the river and canal below Maple Lodge Sewage Works. For about a mile neither of these two water courses are very pleasant, either to the eye or the nose. There have also been complaints about the numbers of *Cheironomous* midges, which are known to breed in polluted water. It is understood that work is in progress to enlarge the capacity of the treatment system and so improve the quality of the effluent.

HOUSING

Housing and slum clearance has long been of cardinal interest to public health workers, and health still remains the most important single reason for the provision of Council owned housing accommodation. It is however becoming increasingly rare for the M.O.H. to put forward serious unhygienic living conditions as a reason for re-housing; where houses are unfit for habitation, and where demolition or clearance is planned, the occupants are automatically re-housed before operations commence. Nowadays the M.O.H. is usually involved with the more abstract effects of unhygienic living conditions. It is he who has to judge whether an applicant's physical or mental health is in fact suffering and whether it will probably improve on re-housing. Statutory overcrowding for example is rare but "social" overcrowding is a common

problem. Usually it is the problem of the young married couple having to share with their in-laws. In other societies the young bride or bridegroom is often welcomed in that he or she provides an extra pair of hands, but in our own tight-knit society, "mother-in-law trouble" is regarded as normal. Undoubtedly this psycho-social setting can lead to mental ill-health and mental breakdown and it is in this field that mental "first-aid" in the way of re-housing is so often needed. However, there are as yet few signs that the housing situation is catching up with the demand and the tendency to earlier marriage does not help. In addition one might also mention the lowered "tolerance level" of the modern young housewife. Council owned houses are now so good that properties without every sort of stainless-steel "mod.-con." are unacceptable. Women in the older type of landlord-owned terrace house view their sisters in the new Council houses with envy, and this in turn can breed discontent and allow the seeds of mental stress to grow. Paradoxically, by our greatly improved standards of living, we are at the same time creating "slums", not because they are in any way unhealthy by our current standards, but simply because they are now unacceptable.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, Local Authorities are empowered to undertake "instruction" of the public on matters relating to health. During the year health education in the country as a whole received great impetus from the publication of the Report of the Cohen Committee, which strongly urged that more active efforts, more carefully planned and evaluated, should be taken to ensure that the public are correctly informed on health.

Local Authorities draw most of their health education material, not to mention inspiration and advice, from the Central Council for Health Education. At present this body is financed almost entirely from Local Authority subscriptions. During the year, I am glad to report, most of my Councils saw fit to increase their contributions as an acknowledgement of their indebtedness.

Public attention throughout the country has been focussed on food hygiene, thanks to the Aberdeen outbreak, and it was decided in this area to concentrate on this aspect of health education. The Chief Health Inspectors in the four Districts have collaborated in issuing a "Bulletin", roughly every three months, which is distributed to the food trade. Each number deals with a certain aspect of food hygiene and accompanying it is a poster on the same subject supplied either by the Central Council for Health Education or by the Ministry.

The County Council also undertakes health education, especially in maternity and child health, and in schools. It is clearly desirable that health education in any one area should be co-ordinated and, following my appointment to the County staff, it has been suggested that I might undertake the task of organising and co-ordinating all health education activities in the South-West Herts Division, including the Borough of Watford. This I am very happy to do.

What are the fields to which health education should give priority? Here the way ahead is not so easy. To prevent disease we must understand its cause. The purpose of health education is to motivate the public so that their lives are conducted in such a way as to avoid these causative factors. In the old days germs were the chief danger and for the most part we know how to avoid these, indeed that is that chief function of the public health department. As a result, germs as a prime cause of disease nowadays are rare. The three most important killing diseases today are bronchitis, cancer and heart trouble. Bronchitis is caused by dusts and fumes, cancer probably by poisons eaten or inhaled. The cause of heart disease is still being debated but it is undoubtedly linked with our modern "way of life" in some way. Can we

teach people how to avoid these diseases? Can we, the public health services, take much positive action? Regrettably, the answer at the moment must be no. Until we can take such steps, health education can only affect the merest fringe of the total health problem confronting us.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The year 1964 marked a major change in public health policy in the Combined Districts as a result of which, for the first time, this heading can now be included in the Annual Report. During the year the County Council decided to delegate its powers and functions (with some exceptions), under the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act, to a local Executive Committee for the South-West Herts Division of the County. The four Districts, and Watford Borough, were invited to appoint representatives on this body. This committee is now responsible for the running of the health and welfare services in this area. These services include: care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, immunization, home helps, mental health, welfare of blind and other disabled persons, old people's welfare and co-operation with voluntary organisations engaged in this work. Only the administrative arrangements have changed; the actual work, and the staff hitherto employed by the County (now employed by the Executive Committee) remain unchanged. The Divisional Medical Officer is the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Watford, and it is he who is therefore the officer responsible for health and welfare in the Combined Districts, not the Medical Officer of Health of those Districts. A place for the District Medical Officer of Health (the writer) has however been found in the new arrangement and he has been appointed Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, with responsibility for the Health Education Section. He also now undertakes certain school and clinic work on behalf of the County. This is a step in the right direction but it would clearly be preferable if the councillors and people of this area could look to their *own* M.O.H. for guidance on *all* matters relating to the health of the public. Very few people (even councillors) can be expected to understand the precise distinction between the health functions of a "local authority" and a "local health authority". In most parts of the County, and in most parts of the country, the same medical officers operates, even if he is not completely responsible for, both sets of functions, and therefore this difficulty does not arise.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

During the year, thanks to close liaison with the practising medical profession in the area, a case of suspected mercury poisoning came to my notice. Following a visit to the factory concerned, the Chief Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Labour was informed, as a result of which certain defects in the factory ventilation system were rectified.

There is a large number of small factories in the four Districts, most of which are without their own medical adviser. In various parts of the country, industrial health services have been set up by the combined effort of the employers in the locality, but such examples are few and far between. For some time there has been talk of Government help along these lines but nothing has materialised so far. One might ask whether the time has not come for Local Authorities to assist in the setting up of such schemes? The simplest step which the Government might take would be to introduce legislation enabling Local Authorities to do this. Even without such legislation it would appear that the M.O.H. and his staff could at least advise employers' groups interested in this matter. At present industrial health is the big blank in the overall health service in the country, which is surprising in such an industrialized nation as our own. Public health is looking for fresh fields; is this not one which might usefully be explored?

BUSHEY URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Public Health Committee (from April): Councillor W. F. NEWELL.

Senior Public Health Inspector: A. C. F. GISBORNE, *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board. Cert. Inspn. of Meats and other Foods.*

Public Health Inspectors:

A. G. BUTTERFIELD, *Cert. P.H.I.E.B.*

E. M. JENKINS, *Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods.*

Student Public Health Inspector: A. R. PADDINGTON.

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 3,866 acres.

Highest Point—London Road at Southern boundary, 506.7ft.

Lowest Point—Near River Colne, 172.2ft.

Dwellings and Rateable Value. (31st March, 1965).

<i>Number of Separate Dwellings</i>	<i>Rateable Value</i>	<i>Product (est.) of Penny Rate</i>
8,110	£1,293,907	£5,118

Population. (Registrar General's estimates for mid-year).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
23,450	22,250	22,080	18,880	16,060	12,930

Birth Rate. Live births per 1,000 of population. (Comparability Factor 0.96).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
17.2	17.9	15.8	16.1	15.1	13.0

Classification of Births:

Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	416
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Still Birth Rate.

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
9.6	7.1	10.6	10.0	16.2	35.7

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964

Bushey Urban District

Code No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under		AGE IN YEARS							65—	75 and over
					1 year	1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—		
1	Tuberculosis Respiratory	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	3	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
14	Malignant neoplasm, lymphatic neoplasms	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
16	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	F	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	2	7	—
17	Diabetes	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	3	—
18	Vascular lesions of nervous system	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19	Coronary disease, angina	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
20	Hypertensions with heart disease	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	9	8	—
21	Other Heart disease	M	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	2	—
22	Other circulatory disease	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Bronchitis	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Dephrosis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	—
34	All other Accidents	F	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—
35	Suicide	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
		M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		M	107	2	—	1	—	1	1	9	7	20	23	43	—
		F	98	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	8	12	25	46	—
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES		205												

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
INCIDENCE according to AGE and Sex during 1964.

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	1	2	19	11	—	—
3—4	1	1	—	3	21	17	—	—
5—9	1	—	1	2	22	24	} 1	—
10—14.. ..	—	—	—	—	1	—		
15—24.. ..	—	—	—	—	2	1		
25 and over ..	—	—	—	2	—	—		
TOTALS	2	1	2	12	66	53	1	—

AGE GROUPS	Tuberculosis Respiratory		Dysentery		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F		M	F
0—4	—	—	1	4	Puerperal pyrexia	—	30
5—14	—	—	6	6			
15—44	1	—	} 5	6			
45—64	2	—					
65 and over ..	—	—					
TOTALS	3	—	12	16			30

No cases of the following notifiable diseases occurred:
Acute Poliomyelitis: paralytic, non-paralytic. Diphtheria. Smallpox. Meningococcal infection. Plague. Malaria. Relapsing fever. Typhus fever. Cholera. Typhoid and Paratyphoid. Erysipelas. Acute Encephalitis: infective, post-infectious. Tuberculosis: meninges and C.N.S., other. Ophthalmia neonatorum.

Month of occurrence

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever				1								2
Whooping Cough			1		1	2		1	2	2	3	2
Measles	2	29	10	3	1	1	1	2	—	19	17	34
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	8	6	3	3	2	3	3	—			
Dysentery	13	6	4				5					
Acute Pneumonia												
Food poisoning							1					

Deaths. 205 persons died during the year.

Death Rate. (Comparability Factor, 1.20).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
10.5	10.9	8.7	8.6	9.9	7.9

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births.)

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
12.0	12.6	10.6	19.7	37	48

Classification of Infant Deaths:

			<i>Under age of 1 week</i>		<i>Under age of 4 weeks</i>		<i>Under age of 1 year</i>	
			M	F	M	F	M	F
Total	...	...	1	2	2	2	2	3

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR’S REPORT

HOUSING CONDITIONS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

a, Total number of houses inspected (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
b, Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183

2. Action Taken

a, Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
b, Unfit houses included in a, above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
d, Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
e, Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
f, Dwellings rendered fit after: —									
i, Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
ii, Formal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

3. Overcrowding.

a, Cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
b, Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

4. Certificates of Disrepair.

a, Undertaking by landlord—Form K.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
b, Certificates issued—Form L.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

5. Improvement Grants.

a, Applications made (including Standard Grants 18)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
b, Grants made after completion of work (including Standard Grants 16)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

6. Number of Houses and Flats Erected During the Year.

a, By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
b, By other Authorities and Organisations	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	145

7. Licensed Caravan Sites Operating on the 31st December, 1964.

a, Number of licensed sites	...	...	...	...	...	10
b, Number of caravans stationed on these sites	...	...	...	...	...	53

Clearance Areas.

By the end of the year, arrangements had been made to re-house all the families living in Clearance Area No. 11 (Nos. 1—4, Meadow Cottages, Belle Vue Lane), and demolition should follow in due course. This is the last area remaining to be dealt with by way of clearance area procedure, following the survey which was carried out in 1955, and it is not anticipated that there will be any further areas declared during the next few years.

Individual Unfit Houses.

With the aid of a grant, a group of farm cottages, Nos, 1, 2 & 3, Hilfield Farm Cottages, were reconditioned, being converted into two dwellings. Nos. 17 and 19, Sparrows Herne were demolished, No. 17, being the subject of a closing order.

The insanitary properties Nos. 134—148, High Street were purchased by the Council during the year and, therefore, no further action will be necessary, as it is the Council's intention to rehouse the occupiers and clear the whole area.

Premises Repairable at Reasonable Cost.

Very few complaints are now received from tenants concerning defects. Twenty-four informal notices were served, requiring owners to carry out repairs, and in only four cases was it necessary to serve formal notices, no Court proceedings being necessary.

Certificates of Disrepair.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made, the very few enquiries received being dealt with by way of informal notices served on the owners, following an inspection of the properties.

Improvement Grants.

There was a slight increase in the number of grants made during the year, and it is not yet possible to know the full effect of the survey that was carried out in Primrose Gardens and Rosebery Road, where owners were advised of the grants available concerning the improvement of property.

Following the introduction of the Housing Act, 1964, the Council decided to examine the possibility of creating an improvement area which would include Primrose Gardens and Rosebery Road. The preliminary survey in connection with such a proposal was commenced in December 1964.

Caravan Sites.

Of the ten licensed sites, five concern those on which three or less caravans are stationed. The site at Coldharbour Farm (5 caravans) was in course

of closing down at the end of the year, owing to the disposal of the land.

There are seven unlicensed sites in the district, all of which were the subject of action during the year. In the case of the largest site, Winfield's Caravan Site, Hartspring Lane, an architect has been appointed who is preparing a full scheme to deal with some sixty caravans, now that the final boundaries of the M.1. extension have been settled, and the caravans moved accordingly. Another unlicensed site (The Blue Star Caravan Site, North Western Avenue) is to be the subject of a Discontinuance Order, and this will result in thirteen caravans being removed from the land.

The remaining five sites are very small, three concerning only single caravans, one of which closed down during the year as the result of action by the Council. Applications for licences have been received from the remaining four and one licence has been issued (one caravan).

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district, except for one house which is connected to its own borehole, is supplied with water by the Colne Valley Water Co. Eight samples were taken for bacteriological examination. One of these, taken from an unsterilised tap in a caravan, was not up to the usual standard, but the repeat sample taken after this tap had been sterilised, was satisfactory, as were all the other samples.

Swimming Pool.

Thirteen samples of water were taken from the Council's Swimming Pool and submitted for bacteriological examination. With the exception of one, all samples proved satisfactory. Mechanical chlorination is continuous and the testing of the water for free chlorine is carried out at frequent intervals during the day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Cesspool emptying is under the control of the Surveyor, and he has kindly supplied the following information for the year 1964:—

Number of cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	105
Number of emptyings	...	...	...	...	...	1,815
Number of loads removed	...	...	...	...	...	2,821
Number of gallons removed	...	...	...	...	...	2,831,450

There was no change in the number of cesspools regularly emptied by the Council in 1964, although there was a reduction in the number of gallons removed. Resewering of the Hilfield Lane area was commenced at the end of the year, and this will result in a further sixty houses being connected to main drainage.

New and Altered Drainage Systems:

Inspections—number of tests made	227
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Council Houses:

Number of obstructions cleared by the Department	...	...	...	...	44
Number of houses affected	...	...	...	...	64

Private Houses:

Number of obstructions cleared by the Department	...	...	...	...	92
Number of houses affected	...	...	...	...	230

As more and more premises are built, it has become the practice of developers to connect a substantial number of dwellings to a single private

sewer before connecting to the public sewer. Consequently the property owners are more and more relying on the Council's drain clearing service in the event of a private sewer becoming obstructed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection.

The Contractors who carry out the refuse collection use three rear loading compressor type vehicles. As far as possible, additional rubbish, such as unwanted beds, mattresses, furniture, baby carriages, gas stoves, refrigerators, parts of cars, sinks and similar material is taken at the time of the weekly collection. 273 requests were made during 1964 for this extra refuse to be removed, these being in addition to substantial quantities of the smaller items that are removed by the collectors, without reference to the Health Department. Even so, such articles are still deposited in the hedgerows and ditches around the area.

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping at Moor Mills some six miles away from the District. The Council Tip at Hilfield Lane ceased to be used in June. Until this Tip was partially incorporated in the Motorway extension, regular inspections were made and the necessary treatments carried out to prevent any rat or insect infestation.

FOOD HYGIENE

Food Condemned.

The following quantities of food were condemned during the year: —

Meat, carcase 147 lbs; Meat, canned 60 lbs; Other Foods 36 lbs; together with approximately 1 cwt. of frozen food damaged as the result of the failure of refrigerators.

This unsound food was disposed of by burying.

During the year, twelve complaints were received concerning the following unsound foods: —

Drinking Chocolate—lumpy. Complaint referred to manufacturers.

Baby Food—length of synthetic fibre. Manufacturers fined £10 and 6 guineas costs.

Cut Wrapped Loaf—embedded insect. Warning letter sent to manufacturers.

Rusks—infested with beetles. Retail grocers fined £20 and 8 guineas costs.

Pork Luncheon Meat—stained tin. Referred to suppliers.

French Loaf—embedded wasp. Warning letter to suppliers.

“Frostie” Cake—mouldy. Warning letter to suppliers.

Bun Round—embedded nail. Bakers fined £40 and 3 guineas costs.

Block of Ice Cream—embedded fly. Attention of manufacturers drawn to complaint.

Sausages—grease on outer skin. Attention of manufacturers drawn to complaint.

Tin of rhubarb—stained. Referred to canners.

Brown Loaf—undissolved particles of yeast, dough and grease. Referred to manufacturers.

Slaughter Houses.

No slaughtering takes place within the district.

Food Premises.

The following table shows the types and numbers of food premises in the District with the inspections made during the year.

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>Number in District</i>	<i>Number of Inspections made</i>
<i>Registered Premises</i>		
Cooked meats and preserved food ..	14	27
Ice Cream retailers	26	45
Dairies	1	3
<i>Other Food Premises</i>		
Bakehouses	4	8
Butchers	13	24
Cafes and Restaurants	8	28
Canteens, factory	14	14
Canteens, school	17	24
Fish and Chip shops	2	3
Fishmongers	3	4
Greengrocers	12	24
Grocers, retail	25	64
Grocers, wholesale	—	—
Hospitals and Nursing Homes	5	3
Hotels and Guest Houses	1	3
Public Houses	18	20
Licensed Clubs	7	7
Mobile Food Premises (excluding ice cream vendors)	11	5
Miscellaneous Premises (sweets, etc.) ..	26	40
Sweet Manufacturer	1	1

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

The following contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were remedied: —

<i>Personal cleanliness</i>	2
<i>Sanitary Conveniences</i>	
(a) Insufficient	0
(b) Defective	5
<i>Washing Facilities</i>	
(a) Insufficient	4
(b) Defective	0
<i>Premises</i>	
(a) Dirty condition	21
(b) Defective	4
<i>Equipment</i>	
(a) Dirty condition	5
(b) Defective	10

As far as possible, regular visits have been made to the various food premises, resulting in twenty-six notices being served. During the year twenty-nine notices were complied with. Every effort is made to visit the larger catering establishments at different times of the day, so that the various food processes can be examined and any necessary advice given.

Milk Supply.

There has been no change in the number of registered premises or distributors operating in the District. There is one dairy and nine distributors on the Register.

Ice Cream.

Visits were made to all premises on the Register and this resulted in the removal of seven premises where ice cream is no longer being sold. At the end of the year, twenty-six retail premises were on the Register. Twenty-four samples were submitted for examination, twenty-two of these being placed in Grade 1, and two in Grade 2.

Sampling.

Since the Bushey Urban District, at the time of writing, is not a Food and Drugs Authority, routine sampling in the District has been carried out by the County Council and we are indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department for the following information:

Milk Samples: None taken.

Other foods: One each of the following: Pork sausage, quick dried French beans, potted sardine in tomato, cherry pie filling, blackcurrent health drink, pineapple juice, Virol, Indian tonic water, meat tenderiser, beef sausage, ice lolly syrup and mango chutney. Two each of the following: Whisky and gin. Four samples of lard. All were found to be genuine.

As the population at the last census exceeded 20,000 application has been made to the Minister of Health for the Council to become a Food and Drugs authority.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS**Rodent Control.**

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	7	6,635	28	963	7,633
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, notification, b, otherwise. .. .	a, 5 b, 3	132 40	2 8	17 72	156 123
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, — b, 6	— 124	—	— 15	— 145
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	a, — b, —	— 12	— 1	— 3	— 16
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ..	6	136	1	18	161
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Works .. .	a, — b, —	— —	— —	— —	— —

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S.4; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.

9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 0.

At the end of the year the Council had four contracts with owners of business premises, for the destruction of rats and mice.

Sewer Control.

During the year approximately 10 per cent of the manholes on the Council's sewerage system were test baited. No "takes" were recorded throughout the system. It is interesting to place on record that since test baiting was first carried out in 1946, only one "take" has ever been recorded from one manhole in the system.

A short length of surface water sewer again became infested, and was dealt with. This infestation occurs periodically and is caused by rats gaining access from the ditch into which the sewer discharges.

Insect and Other Pests.

Twenty houses were treated as the result of insect infestation (2 cases of fleas, 2 of beetles, 16 of ants), while thirty-eight wasps nests were destroyed at the request of occupiers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Few complaints were received during the year concerning atmospheric pollution, while no serious pollution was reported. The levels of pollution by sulphur oxides measured by exposing lead peroxide candles was continued throughout the year, the results following the usual pattern.

Only three proposals were received concerning the installation of boiler plants, one concerning a very small plant, the other two dealing with the installation of oil-fired boilers at two private schools. The total output of these installations was 10,250,000 B.Th.U.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

During the period 1st May to the 31st December, 1964, the Council's action had mainly been concerned with the registration of premises under the Act, and 192 visits have been made to all types of premises. Bushey has a number of small offices and shops and the occupiers of many had been found to be exempt from registration. As far as was known, all premises which required registration by this Council had been dealt with by the end of the year. The statistical information required by the Minister of Labour was as follows: —

Registration and Inspection:

<i>Number of registered premises:</i>		<i>Number of general inspections:</i>	
Offices	53		2
Retail shops	93		3
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	6		2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	5		—
Fuel storage depots	—		—
Total	157	Total	7

Number of visits of all kinds: 216.

<i>Number of employees:</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Offices ... ..	...	...	...	262	269	531
Retail shops ... ..	...	...	...	139	243	382
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	...	...	...	55	37	92
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ... ..	...	...	...	19	24	43
Total				475	573	1048

No applications for exemptions had been received during the year.
 No prosecutions had been made during the year.
 No accidents had been reported during the year.

Shops Act, 1950.

Towards the end of 1963, the Council became a Shops Act Authority, as a result of the population exceeding 20,000 at the last census. No complaints were received during the year and no contraventions were found.

An approach, however, was made by the National Association of Multiple Grocers, asking the Council to rescind, so far as concerns grocery and provision trade in Bushey, the order which specifies which day of the week should be observed as early closing day in Bushey. The Council decided that the local grocers should be consulted, together with the Bushey and District Chamber of Commerce. The managements of 31 shops were circularised, and of the 16 replies received only 5 expressed a wish to have a freedom of choice, 5 others indicating a definite preference for Wednesday as early closing day. In view of this, the Council decided to take no further action concerning this request for the time being.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.. ..	1	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	45	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	31	—	—
TOTAL ..	84	78	2	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offence relating to Outwork) ..	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	2	4	—	—	—

3.—Outworkers.

Section 133(1). No copies of lists showing outworkers employed were received from employers in the district during the year.

Section 133(2). Notifications were received from other Authorities concerning 16 outworkers who are employed in this district.

Section 134. No outworkers were found to be working in unwholesome premises, or suffering from infectious disease.

MISCELLANEOUS

Disinfection.

During the year eight premises were disinfected, including wards at Bushey Hospital. As the result of the itinerant caravan dwellers being moved from the Berry Grove area, where engineering works were commenced in connection with the extension of the M.1., disinfection was necessary. Some of the areas occupied by these itinerant dwellers, and particularly the old motor car bodies left behind, were severely fouled by human excreta, and disinfection became necessary before the old car bodies and other rubbish could be cleared from the site. All combustible material was burnt.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

For the first time since the implementation of this Act, the Council were pressed to operate it in connection with a nuisance that was being created by dogs in a large boarding establishment. The noise from these animals was particularly acute during holiday periods, and caused severe nuisances during the hot weather, when doors and windows of both houses and kennels had to be opened.

The Council served an Abatement Notice on the occupier of the Kennels, but it was not necessary to take the matter further as the Kennels were ultimately closed down, when planning permission was granted for the development of the site.

Rag Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951.

Only one establishment is registered in the district, where a large number of car seats are made. Four inspections were carried out and at no time was any contravention recorded.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Two premises are licensed and six inspections of these premises were made during the year. No contraventions were reported.

Animal Boarding Establishments, Act, 1963.

This Act came into operation on the 1st January 1964, and as its provisions apply to Bushey, the Council decided that the Public Health Inspectors, together with a Veterinary Surgeon, should be appointed inspectors under the Act. When applications for licences were being considered, in addition to reports from the above officers, one was also available from the fire authority.

Five licences have been issued concerning five premises where kennel accommodation is available for 444 dogs, and accommodation for 189 cats.

Attached to the licences are various conditions, and the veterinary surgeon hopes that over the next year or two, improvements will be carried out in such a way that all the premises will be of a high standard.

Home Safety.

With the exception of exhibiting posters, no further publicity was arranged during the year. As previously stated, it is hoped that it will be possible to increase all facets concerning publicity on Home Safety in 1965.

CHORLEYWOOD URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Public Health Committee: Councillor C. M. LEWIS.

*Senior Public Health Inspector (and Surveyor)—*W. E. HANDS. *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board. Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods.*

*Public Health Inspector (and Deputy Surveyor)—*A. YOUNG, *Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.*

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 2,055 acres.
Highest Point—Near water tower at the Swillett, 410.6ft.
Lowest Point—Junction of Meadow Way and Belfry Lane, 160.3ft.

Dwellings and Rateable Value. (31st March, 1965).

<i>Number of Separate Dwellings</i>	<i>Rateable Value</i>	<i>Product (est.) of Penny Rate</i>
2,357	£450,155	£1,840

Population. (Registrar General's estimates for mid-year).

1964	1963	1962	1960	1958	1951	1939
7,420	7,100	7,050	6,770	6,320	4,480	3,775

Birth Rate. Live births per 1,000 of population: (Comparability Factor 1.05).

1964	1963	1962	1960	1958	1951	1939
15.42	11.1	12.9	16.2	16.3	12.5	9.0

Classification of Births:

Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20 5
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Still Birth Rate.

Still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births:

1964	1963	1962	1960	1958	1955	1939
9.26	13.3	11.0	17.9	28.3	12.2	55.5

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INCIDENCE according to AGE and Sex during 1964.

Age Groups		Measles		Whooping Cough		Dysentery	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	..	1	—	—	1	—	—
1—2	..	6	9	3	—	—	—
3—4	..	10	14	3	3	—	—
5—9	..	9	17	3	1	1	—
10—14	..	2	2	—	—	—	—
15—24	..	—	—	—	—	—	1
25 and over		—	1	—	1	1	—
TOTALS		28	43	9	6	2	1

Age Groups		Food Poisoning		Tuberculosis Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F
0—4	..	—	—	—	—
5—14	..	—	1	—	—
15—44	..	—	—	1	—
45—64	..	1	1	—	—
65 and over		—	—	—	—
TOTALS		1	2	1	—

No cases of the following notifiable diseases occurred:
Acute Poliomyelitis: paralytic and non-paralytic. Meningococcal infection. Acute Pneumonia. Scarlet fever. Diphtheria. Smallpox. Acute Encephalitis: infective, post-infectious. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Puerperal Pyrexia. Opthhalmia Neonatorum. Plague. Malaria. Cholera. Relapsing fever. Typhus fever. Tuberculosis: meninges and C.N.S., other.

Month of occurrence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Measles		1	1	9	9	9	18	23				1
Food poisoning									3			
Whooping Cough				2		3	5	5				
Dysentery			3									

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964

Code No.	Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	4 weeks and under		1—	5—	15—	AGE IN YEARS					65—	75 and over
				Under 4 weeks	1 year				25—	35—	45—	55—	65—		
1	Tuberculosis respiratory	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	3
16	Diabetes	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous systems	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
18	Coronary disease, angina	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
19	Hypertension with heart disease	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	2
20	Other heart disease	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
21	Other circulatory disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
24	Bronchitis	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
31	Congenital malformations	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	23	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	6	2	8	—
		F	22	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	10	—
			45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths. 45 persons died during the year.
Death Rate per 1000 of population (Comparability Factor 1.13).

1964	1963	1962	1960	1958	1951	1939
6.8	9.1	6.2	8.3	7.4	8.5	9.6

Infantile Mortality Rate.
 (Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births):

1964	1963	1962	1960	1958	1951	1939
27.8	0	11.0	0	29.1	0	29

Classification of Infant Deaths:

			<i>Under Age of 1 week</i>		<i>Under Age of 4 weeks</i>		<i>Under Age of 1 year</i>	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	2

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
 HOUSING CONDITIONS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

<i>a</i> , Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
<i>b</i> , Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56

2. Action Taken.

Number of: —								
<i>a</i> , Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>b</i> , Unfit houses included in <i>a</i> , above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>c</i> , Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>d</i> , Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>e</i> , Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>f</i> , Dwellings rendered fit after: —								
<i>i</i> , Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
<i>ii</i> , Formal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

3. Overcrowding.

Number of: —								
<i>a</i> , Cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>b</i> , Premises found to be overcrowded during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>c</i> , Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

4. Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of: —								
<i>a</i> , Certificates of Disrepair, issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>b</i> , Certificates of Disrepair, cancelled	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>c</i> , Certificates of Disrepair, proposed to issue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

5. Improvement Grants.

Number of: —								
<i>a</i> , Applications made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>b</i> , Grants made, “Standard 1, Discretionary 1”	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

6. Number of Houses and Flats Erected During the Year.

a, By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	0
b, By other Authorities and Organisations	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	63

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the District is provided by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company; two water samples were submitted for examination and both proved satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Public Conveniences.

The Council provides public conveniences for Men and Women on Road A.404 opposite Chorleywood Common; it is to be regretted that in order to reduce vandalism it has been found necessary to close these conveniences at dusk.

Dwellings not connected to the Public Sewer.

There are 43 properties in the District which are not connected to the public sewer.

The sewer is physically available to serve 16 of these properties, 6 properties are drained by small scale sewage disposal plants and the remaining 21 properties cannot at the moment be connected to the sewer.

During the year under review one house which had previously been drained to a cesspool was connected to the sewer.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour. Two vehicles were in use during the year, both 18 cu.yds. dual tip vehicles. Six men maintain a 7-day collection service. A bonus scheme is operated by the Council.

Disposal is by means of controlled tipping at a tip situated at Wapseys Wood Pit, Gerrards Cross. In co-operation with the Amersham Rural District Council, all refuse is dumped in the first instance at their London Road Depot and is then conveyed by means of bulk transporters to the Gerrards Cross tip.

A heavy litter collection has been in operation for the past two years; this service provides, on request, a free quarterly collection of bulky articles from domestic premises and continues to be much used by the ratepayers of the District.

FOOD HYGIENE

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection.

No animals were slaughtered in the District during the year under review. As a result of inspections carried out, 54 lbs. of beef were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered to the Council for disposal.

Food Premises.

Routine inspections were continued of food premises in the District and every effort was made to encourage food handlers to maintain care in their work.

The following table sets out the number and type of food premises in the District, together with the number of inspections made: —

Type of business	Number in District	Number of inspections made
Bakehouses	1	2
Butchers	4	8
Canteens, Factory	1	3
Canteens, School	4	6
Fishmongers	1	2
Greengrocers	1	2
Grocers, Retail	6	9
Hotels and Guest Houses	1	3
Public Houses	7	7
Licensed Clubs	3	3
Mobile Food Premises	4	6
Miscellaneous Premises (sweets, etc.)	4	4

Ice Cream

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Eight premises are registered for the sale of wrapped ice cream only.

RODENT CONTROL
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.'s district	4	2,345	11	152	2,512
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result					
a, of notification	a, —	57	—	2	59
b, otherwise	b, 4	82	7	31	124
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats					
a, Major	a, —	—	—	—	—
b, Minor, infest	b, —	49	—	2	51
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by mice					
a, Major	a, —	—	—	—	—
b, Minor, infest	b, —	1	—	—	1
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A.	—	50	—	2	52
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for					
a, Treatment	b, —	—	—	—	—
b, Structural Works	b, —	—	—	—	—

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S.4—0.

8. Legal proceedings—0.

9. Number of “block control” schemes carried out—0.

Fifteen complaints were received regarding wasps and twelve nests were destroyed or removed.

Sewer Control.

Following test baiting of the sewers in 1961 and 1962 when no infestation was revealed, exemption from sewer treatment has been granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food until January, 1965.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Below is given an analysis of the annual return of premises registered by the L.A. under the Act: —

Type of premises registered	No. of premises	No. of persons employed	No. of inspections
Offices	11	79	1
Retail Shops	20	64	5
Wholesale Shops and Warehouse	—	—	—
Catering Establishments open to the Public, Canteens	1	10	1
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—

No accidents were notified to the Local Authority in the period of the year during which the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act was in operation.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	16	16	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	17	17	—	—

- 2.—Defects. There were no cases in which defects were found.
- 3.—Outworkers. Section 110. Three persons are engaged in outwork for factories outside the District. No infectious diseases occurred among them during the year.

RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee (from April): Councillor G. THOMAS.

*Chief Public Health Inspector—*C. R. ALEXANDER. *Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board. Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods.*

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—*F. KEENE. *Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Inspn. Meat and other Foods. Cert. Smoke Inspn.*

*Public Health Inspector—*W. HUMBER, *Cert. S.I.J.B. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.*

General.

Area (land and inland water), 7,639 acres.

Dwellings and Rateable Value. (31st March, 1965).

<i>Number of Separate Dwellings</i>	<i>Rateable Value</i>	<i>Product (est.) of Penny Rate</i>
9,382	£2,079,881	£8,545

Population (Registrar General's estimates at mid-year).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
30,130	29,690	29,320	27,450	25,310	19,930

Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of population): (Comparability Factor 1.07)

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
16.6	16.2	15.5	16.3	13.6	18.8

Classification of Births:

Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	460
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Still Birth Rate. Still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births:

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
13.0	8.9	8.8	13.2	28.2	44.5

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964

Rickmansworth Urban District

Code No.	Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year		AGE IN YEARS						75 and over
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	2
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18	Coronary disease, angina	F	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	5	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	M	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	11	14
20	Other heart disease	F	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	12
21	Other circulatory disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
23	Pneumonia	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
24	Bronchitis	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	F	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	13
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	F	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
31	Congenital malformations	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
33	Motor vehicle accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
34	All other accidents	F	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35	Suicide	M	12	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2
		F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
		M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	135	7	1	—	2	3	1	9	29	30	51
		M	116	1	—	—	—	2	—	9	16	24	58
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		M	251	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX during 1964.

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Meningococcal Infection	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	17	15	—	—
3—4	1	—	2	—	36	29	1	—
5—9	—	2	1	1	45	44	—	—
10—14	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 and over ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	3	4	2	101	90	1	—

Age Groups	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Acute encephalitis infective		Food Poisoning		Tuberculosis Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	1
45—64	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
65 and over ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
TOTALS	—	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	7	1

No cases of the following notifiable diseases occurred:
Acute Poliomyelitis: paralytic, non-paralytic. Diphtheria. Smallpox. Typhoid and Paratyphoid. Erysipelas. Cholera. Malaria. Plague. Relapsing Fever. Typhus Fever. Acute Encephalitis: post infectious. Puerperal pyrexia. Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Tuberculosis: meninges and C.N.S., other.

Month of occurrence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever			1		1					2	1	
Whooping Cough		2		3			1					
Measles	4	6	18	23	15	36	64	18	1		3	3
Dysentery						1		2				
Acute Pneumonia											1	
Food Poisoning										1	4	
Meningococcal Infection	1											

Deaths. 251 persons died during the year.

Death Rate per 1,000 of population (Comparability Factor 1.19).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
9.9	11.5	9.2	8.6	9.1	8.5

Infantile Mortality Rate

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births):

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
19.6	13.4	24.2	17.9	14	32

Classification of Infant Deaths:

			<i>Under Age of 1 week</i>		<i>Under Age of 4 weeks</i>		<i>Under Age of 1 year</i>	
			M	F	M	F	M	F
Total	...	...	6	1	7	1	7	2

REPORT BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
HOUSING CONDITIONS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

a, Total number of houses inspected (Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
b, Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	192

2. Action Taken.

a, Clearance Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
b, Unfit houses included in a, above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
c, Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
d, Individual houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
e, Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
f, Dwellings rendered fit after: —									
i, Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
ii, Formal action	...	...	...	{ Public Health Act, 1936		...	...	...	1
				{ Housing Act, 1957		...	...	...	—

3. Improvement Grants.

a, Applications	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
b, Schemes Completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

4. Number of Houses and Flats erected during the year.

a, By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
b, By other Authorities and Organisations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
c, By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227

Caravan Sites.

a, *Licensed*

There continued to be 15 small sites with a total of 40 caravans. No problems were encountered.

b, Others.

Three other sites of a temporary character, 2 of which are in the ownership of the Council accommodated approximately 16 caravans at the end of the year. The Council owned sites are being run-down and the third site used by engineers on a civil engineering contract ceased to be so used at the end of 1964. All 3 sites were satisfactory and no problems arose.

Unfit Houses.

With the increased availability of new Council houses it has been possible nearly to complete the slum clearance programme. Eighteen families were rehoused from sub-standard property during the year.

Two Clearance Areas with 20 houses were declared in the town centre and preliminary steps were taken for the demolition of another 14 houses, also in the town centre and in the ownership of the Council. Eighteen individually unfit houses were demolished and three closed.

Improvement Grants.

Although the number of applications rose from 24 in 1963 to 31 in 1964, the number of houses improved dropped from 23 to 10 in the respective years. There are, however, a number in the pipeline and the 1965 figures should show an increase. The cost of grants for 1964 was £2,100 making a total payment for 269 units of £66,100.

In addition one standard grant of £155 was made.

WATER SUPPLY**Domestic supply.**

All except two houses within the Urban District are on main piped supplies. The principal water undertaking is the Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company while the Colne Valley Water Company supply some houses in the Moor Park area. The two houses not on the main supply are in an isolated position but regular samples have indicated a satisfactory water supply.

Swimming pools.

The Ebury Road Open Air Bath is owned by the Council but is only in use during the school summer-holidays. The water supply is by bore. The water is chlorinated and is checked three times daily by the staff and bacteriological samples are taken fortnightly.

There are swimming pools at Juniper Hill School, Mill End Junior School and Beaumont House School. These are all chlorinated.

Twenty samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all were satisfactory except two. The two unsatisfactory samples were found to be due to the temporary breakdown of the chlorination apparatus.

DRAINAGE

Practically the whole area is sewered but there are three main areas which are drained either to cesspools or septic tanks. No exact figures are available but it is calculated that there are 162 houses not connected to the sewerage system. These are made up as follows: —

The Green, Croxley Green and Loudwater	55
West Hyde Ward	62
Batchworth Heath area	18
Woodcock Hill	13
Isolated or semi-isolated houses	17

The unsewered houses on The Green would be difficult to deal with as they are generally some distance apart and at too low a level to connect to the

nearest sewers. Loudwater is completely isolated from the main sewerage system of the area. Generally the houses in the West Hyde Ward are either isolated, remote from the sewer, below the sewer level, or a combination of these factors. It is hoped to connect to a new sewer the houses actually on Batchworth Heath during 1965. It would be extremely expensive to sewer the isolated houses at the top of Woodcock Hill.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection.

The collection and disposal of refuse is under the control of the Engineer & Surveyor. A satisfactory weekly collection is maintained using modern refuse collection vehicles.

The refuse is disposed at a private tip outside the Urban District.

FOOD HYGIENE

Food Condemned.

630 lbs.	Meat.
8 lbs.	Cooked Meat & Meat Products.
64 lbs.	Tinned Meat.
82 lbs.	Fish.
5 lbs.	Tinned Fish.
616 lbs.	Potatoes.
1160 lbs.	Other Foodstuffs.

Slaughterhouses.

No regular slaughtering takes place within the District. No notice of any occasional slaughtering was received during the past year.

Food Premises.

The following table sets out the numbers and types of food premises in the district and the numbers of inspections made: —

<i>Type of Food Premises</i>	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
Bakehouses	2	19
Bread & Pastry Purveyors	13	32
Butchers	20	88
Confectioners	36	58
Fishmongers	6	13
Fish Fryers	4	11
Greengrocers	30	104
Grocers	40	121
Ice Cream Purveyors ..	51	70
Licensed Premises ..	50	135
Milk Distributors ..	25	46
Restaurants & Cafes ..	38	95
Canteens, Factory ..	11	41
Canteens, School ..	16	76

The Food Hygiene Regulations, (1960).

The work of maintaining and improving hygienic conditions in food premises has continued. The following figures indicate the remedial work carried out by informal action: —

<i>Personal Cleanliness</i>	5
<i>Sanitary Conveniences:</i>	
(a) Insufficient	50
(b) Defective	13
<i>Premises:</i>	
(a) Dirty	86
(b) Defective	36

Washing Facilities:

(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Equipment:

(a) Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Defective and/or insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	50

Milk Supply.

Number of persons registered as Distributors	...	...	25
Number of premises registered as Dairies	...	...	2
Number of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	...	1
Number of Dealer's (Pre-packed) Milk Licences: —			
Pasteurised	...	...	23
Sterilised	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	7
Inspection of Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	46
Notices: Served 3. Complied with 0.			

<i>Milk Samples</i>	<i>Taken</i>	<i>Failures</i>
Pasteurised	15	—
T.T. Pasteurised	1	—
Tuberculin Tested	—	—

The sole pasteurising dairy was again regularly inspected during the year. As a result of informal action by the Department the buildings were improved and a satisfactory standard of hygiene was maintained. There were no plant sample failures.

Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district but 51 premises were registered for storage and sale.

Six samples of hard ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which were satisfactory.

Four samples of soft ice cream taken for bacteriological examination from retail vehicles of firms (from outside the area) gave the following results:

<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Grading</i>
1	1
—	2
1	3
2	4

The remarks made in last year's report on the importance of the "human element" in the production of a good soft ice cream on a vehicle are illustrated in the two Grade 4 failures shown above. Both samples were from a reputable manufacturer but improper cleansing and sterilisation of the machine by the driver were the cause of the unsatisfactory samples. Remedial action was quickly taken by the company concerned but it is to be regretted that stronger legal powers are not available to control this product.

Food & Drugs Sampling.

Samples were taken of the following: —

	<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Beef	—	1
Gravy.. .. .	—	1
Blackberries	—	2
Browning	—	1
“Chicken Continental”	—	1
Cream	—	2
“London Grill”	—	1
Nutmeg, ground	—	1
Sausages, beef	—	1
Steak & Kidney Pudding	—	1
Milk	6	—
Milk, Channel Islands	6	—
Apple Flakes.. .. .	—	1
Apple Pie	—	1
Apple Solid Pack	—	1
Chopped Ham	—	1
Pork Luncheon Meat	—	1
Steak & Kidney Pie.. .. .	—	1
Strawberries	—	1
Tongues	—	1
Aspirins	—	1
Bread.. .. .	—	1*
Chicken & Mushrooms	—	1
Cream Cakes	—	1
Cream of Tartar	—	1
Dessert, Lemon Flavour	—	1
Devon Violet Cachous	—	1
Ice Cream	—	2
Prawn Curry with Rice	—	1
Sausages, pork	—	2
Sweets	—	1
Sweet & Sour Sauce	—	1
Veal & Ham Paste	—	1
Vinegar, Malt	—	1*
Brandy	1	—
Gin	1	—
Whisky	2	—
Antiseptic Throat Pastilles.. .. .	—	1
Antiseptic Skin Cream	—	1
Blackcurrant Linctus	—	1*
Vitamin Pellets	—	1

Unsatisfactory Samples (marked *)

Bread: Contained fragments of charred dough.

Malt Vinegar: Contain 4 whitish cylindrical masses of acetifying organisms employed in the manufacture of vinegar.

Blackcurrent Linctus: Mis-described on label. Contained no significant proportions of blackcurrent juice. Informed manufacturers who had then ceased making this product.

Prosecutions (following complaints made by the public).

Mould in Finger Rolls — Case dismissed.

Mould in Steak & Kidney Pie — Case dismissed.

Smoking by Food Handler — £10 fine.

Metal in loaf of bread — £25 + £2 2s. costs.

String in loaf of bread — £25 + £2 2s. costs.

Licensed Premises.

The following table summarises work in connection with matters not directly related to the Food Hygiene Regulations.

	<i>No of Licensed Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>
	50	72
Notices:	Served 17;	Complied 24.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	35	9,067	36	1,453	10,591
2. No. of properties insepcted by L.A. as a result of a, notification, b, otherwise	41	197	—	32	270
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats a, Major, b, Minor, Infest	a, — b, 14	— 166	— —	— 18	— 198
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice a, Major, Minor, Infest	a, — b, 1	— 13	— —	— 9	— 23
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A.	15	179	—	27	221
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment, b, Structural Works	—	—	—	—	—

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S.4; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.

9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 16.

Verminous Premises.

The main calls on the Department related to identification and advice on methods of control of insects which are of nuisance value, in houses but are of little public health significance, such as ants, spider beetles, carpet beetles, swarming flies, etc. One, perhaps surprising, case of bedbugs was discovered—the first for many years in the district—which was found, on investigation, to have arisen from a second hand bed which had been brought into the house a few months earlier. The infestation was quickly cleared by DDT spray.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily recordings of air pollution at the 2 sites in the district, which were set up at the request of the Warren Spring Laboratory, Stevenage, in December, 1961, continued. No problems from these routine measurements arose during the year.

The question of deciding the appropriate height of a new County Primary School chimney had still not been resolved at the end of the year. There is

obviously a genuine divergence of opinion between public health authorities on the one hand who think that school chimney heights should conform with the Ministry of Housing & Local Government's Memorandum, and architects and planners on the other hand who feel that architectural and aesthetic consideration should predominate, particularly where single storey buildings are involved. There is also evidence that this conflict of opinion is by no means confined to this District, and there would appear to be a need for further consultations between the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and the Department of Education on this matter. In the local case in question, some degree of compromise appears to be the only satisfactory solution.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This legislation came into force in February 1964 but local authorities were not affected until the following May. By the 31st July, all persons employing staff had to register their premises and as a result of a circular letter, a newspaper advertisement and some personal calls, practically all were received by that date.

Some difficulties arose on demarcation, i.e. whether the premises were subject to enforcement by this Council or H.M. Inspector of Factories but inspections at the rate of about 4 per week commenced in October last and have continued. Although considerable help as to standards has been obtained from the appropriate Ministry, problems have arisen regarding the heating of certain classes of shops, fencing off part of exposed machinery and, in some cases, overcrowding.

No bona fide applications for exemption have been received.

Registration and General Inspections

	<i>No. of premises registered during the year</i>	<i>Total number of registered premises at end of year</i>	<i>No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	87	87	7
Retail Shops	216	216	34
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	34	34	2

No. of Visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises: —

General inspections 44. Revisits 23.

Number of employees

<i>Class of Workplace</i>	<i>No. of persons employed</i>
Offices	1,012
Retail Shops	1,017
Wholesale departments, warehouses	134
Catering establishments open to the public	205
Canteens	9
Total	2,377
	Males 927
	Females 1,450

Shops Act, 1950.

No serious infringements of the Act were observed during the year. The provisions of the Act relating to the comfort and welfare of shop assistants were repealed, extended and improved by the Officers, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 which came into operation during the year. Enforcement

of the Shops Act is now therefore mainly confined to the regulation of hours of closing and the hours of work of shops employees.

No. of Shops
312

Inspections
444

Notices:

Served 27; Complied 23.

No. of Mobile Shops
19

Inspections
58

Notices:

Served 10; Complied 9.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.. ..	5	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	100	112	13	—
TOTALS	105	117	13	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	3	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home- work)	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	6	3	1	—	—

3.—Outworkers (Section 133).

Factories in district employing outworkers outside the district:—

No. of factories 1. No. of outworkers 330.

Factories in district employing outworkers inside the district:—

No. of factories 1. No. of outworkers 6.

Factories outside district employing outworkers inside the district:—

No. of factories 3. No. of outworkers 14.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The condition of the rivers and streams in the district was kept under constant observation during the year and close co-operation was maintained with the Thames Conservancy Board.

As a result of a breach in a bank of a former millstream (originally caused by malicious interference with a sluice drain), the water was totally diverted from its normal course with the result that the stream bed became foul and a statutory nuisance was created. The Council abated the nuisance after examination of the complicated legal position.

In an attempt to mitigate the problem of inadequate dilution of sewage effluent, the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority diverted discharge of effluent at the end of the year from the River Colne into the nearby canal. This has posed additional problems in view of the relatively poor flow of water in the canal. Arrangements have now also been made for pilot treatment of the river/canal bed by suitable insecticide in an attempt to control the problem of midges.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Two such establishments only now operate in the district. Both are well kept and managed and no problems arose from them during the year.

WATFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Chairman of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee (from April):
Councillor E. H. NIMMO.

Chief Public Health Inspector—S. N. GRIGG. Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board. Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector—F. REEVE. Cert. S.I.J.B.

Public Health Inspectors—F. VALENTINE. Cert. S.I.J.B. Cert. Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

T. W. A. DURN. Cert. P.H.I.E.B. Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods. (left in August).

A. R. PRYKE. Cert. P.H.I.E.B. Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods. Cert. Smoke Inspn. (Commenced November).

P. J. NAYLOR. Cert. P.H.I.E.B. Cert. Inspn. of Meat and other Foods. (Commenced in November).

General Assistant—B. F. KING.

General.

Area (land and inland water). 18,179 acres.

Civil Parishes—Abbots Langley, 5,558.9; Aldenham, 5,842; Sarratt, 4,587.4; Watford Rural, 2,190.7 acres.

Dwellings and Rateable Value. (31st March, 1965).

<i>Number of Separate Dwellings</i>	<i>Rateable Value</i>	<i>Product (est.) of Penny Rate</i>
15,753	£2,680,069	£10,670

Population. (Registrar General's estimates for mid-year).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
60,810	60,000	59,560	55,490	40,150	20,280

Birth Rate. (Live births per 1,000 of population): Comparability Factor, 0.98.

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
13.0	13.5	13.8	15.5	17.0	13.9

Classification of Births:

Total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	803
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Still Birth Rate. Still births per 1,000 total (live and still) births:

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
10.0	15.7	10.8	11.5	20.0	20.8

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964

Code No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
						1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over	
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	1	
		F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	M	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	9	2	
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		F	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	1	2	
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	14	5	5	
		F	27	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	4	2	6	13	
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
16	Diabetes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	10	
		F	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	4	16	
18	Coronary disease, angina	M	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	11	16	19	16	
		F	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	20	
19	Hypertension with heart disease	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	
		F	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1964 (continued)

										Watford Rural District									
Code No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS													
						1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over					
20	Other heart disease	M	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	2	—	—	6			
21	Other circulatory disease	F	30	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	25			
23	Pneumonia	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	7			
24	Bronchitis	F	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	9			
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	M	19	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	9			
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	F	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	4	—	—	10			
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	6	—	—	3			
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	—	—	1			
31	Congenital malformations	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—			
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
33	Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
34	All other accidents	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
35	Suicide	M	27	—	—	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	2	4	—	13			
		F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
		M	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1			
		F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2			
		M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2			
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1			
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—			
		M	252	3	1	2	1	8	4	13	33	59	59	59	—	69			
		F	234	4	3	2	3	3	4	9	17	26	39	39	—	124			
			486																

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
INCIDENCE according to AGE and Sex during 1964.

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles				
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
0—1 ...	—	—	1	1	5	4			
1—2 ...	1	—	1	6	25	12			
3—4 ...	1	2	2	6	43	30			
5—9 ...	7	4	3	6	59	45			
10—14 ...	1	1	2	—	2	3			
15—24 ...	—	1	—	—	2	2			
25 and over	—	—	1	—	1	—			
TOTALS	10	8	10	19	137	96			

AGE GROUPS	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Meningococcal infection		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0—4 ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
5—14 ...	1	1	1	6	—	—	1	—	
15—44 ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	
45—64 ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	2	1	4	9	—	—	1	9	

AGE GROUPS	Food Poisoning		Tuberculosis				Other Notifiable Diseases		
			Respiratory		Other				
	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0—4 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	Puerperal pyrexia		
5—14	2	3	—	1	—	—		—	1
15—44 ...	8	3	3	1	—	2	Erysipelas	1	—
45—64	1	3	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS (all ages)	13	15	10	3	—	3	—	1	1

No cases of the following notifiable diseases occurred:
Acute Poliomyelitis: paralytic, non-paralytic. Diphtheria. Smallpox. Acute Encephalitis: infective, post-infectious. Paratyphoid fever. Cholera. Malaria. Plague, Relapsing fever. Typhus fever. Tuberculosis: meninges and C.N.S.

Notifiable Diseases (continued)

Month of Occurrence

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever	1		3	3	2	1	3	2		2		1
Whooping Cough	3	6	8		1	1	2		5	2		
Measles	21	61	28	64	21	15	7	4	3	3	3	2
Meningococcal Infection												
Dysentery			4	1	1		7					
Puerperal Pyrexia									1	1		
Acute Pneumonia		2										
Typhoid Fever			1	7	1				1			
Food Poisoning	7		1			2	4		7	4	2	1
Erysipelas										1		

Deaths. 486 persons died during the year.

Death Rate per 1,000 of population (Comparability Factor 1.15).

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
9.6	10.25	9.3	8.5	7.1	8.8

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births):

1964	1963	1962	1958	1951	1939
13.7	21.8	18.3	20.9	29	56

Classification of Infant Deaths:

		Under Age of 1 week		Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
Total	...	1	3	3	4	4	7

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HOUSING CONDITIONS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

a, Total number of houses inspected (Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	416
b, Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	647

2. Action Taken.

a, Clearance areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
b, Unfit houses included in a, above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, Individual houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
d, Individual houses closed.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
e, Parts of buildings closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
f, Dwellings rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
i, Informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
ii, Formal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

3. Overcrowding.

a, Cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
b, Premises found to be statutorily overcrowded during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

4. Certificates of Disrepair.

a, Certificates of Disrepair issued.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
b, Undertakings given by landlord	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
c, Certificates of Disrepair revoked	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

5. Improvement Grants.

a, Applications made for Discretionary Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
b, Grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
c, Applications made for Standard Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
d, Grants approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

6. Number of Houses and Flats Erected During the Year.

a, By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
b, By other Authorities and Organisations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
c, By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	Houses	110	
							Flats	1	

7. Licensed Caravan Sites.

There are four large sites in the District:									
Highview Caravan Park, Kings Langley	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	caravans	
Newlands Caravan Site, Bedmond	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	caravans	
Brookside, Eastbury Road, Oxhey	...	...	...	...	...	...	70	caravans	
Langleyview Caravan Park, Abbots Langley	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	caravans	

8 other sites which are subject to Discontinuance Orders and are being run down.

Several complaints were received during the year concerning the stationing of itinerant caravans on the road verges in the district. These caravans only stayed for a few days and then moved on leaving the sites littered with refuse. It is hoped that the proposed County Council site for such caravanners may see the end of this problem.

WATER SUPPLY

Domestic Supply.

The majority of the district is served by a public mains supply, by the Colne Valley Water Company, the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company, or, the Watford Corporation Water Undertaking.

The table below gives the approximate number of dwellings and population served by a mains supply direct to the premises or by a standpipe.

Parish	Mains supply direct to dwelling house		Mains supply by standpipe	
	No. of Houses	Population	No. of Houses	Population
Abbots Langley	4,520	15,820	39	132
Aldenham	3,883	14,367	6	21
Sarratt	843	3,119	54	189
Watford Rural	6,628	24,524	—	—
Total	15,874	57,830	99	342

No complaints were received during the year concerning the quality and quantity of the main supplies, all of which are chlorinated.

Swimming Pools.

The only swimming pool which was privately owned, but was opened to the public, was not in operation at the beginning of the season and the site now absorbed in building of a housing estate.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Public Conveniences.

The Council have provided public conveniences at Watling Street, Radlett; Station Approach, South Oxhey; Oxhey Pavilion; and High Street, Abbots Langley.

In all these conveniences free hand washing facilities are available. Unfortunately, from time to time, acts of vandalism take place and have resulted on occasions in the conveniences concerned being temporarily closed.

Dwellings not connected.

Number of dwellings not connected to a sewerage system at the end of the year, the system of sanitation being: —

Parish	Cesspool	Pail Type Closet
Abbots Langley	216	69
Aldenham	121	40
Sarratt	519	90
Watford Rural	26	6
	882	205

General.

The Parishes of Abbots Langley, Aldenham and Watford Rural, and a small part of the Parish of Sarratt are served by main sewerage systems which discharge into the trunk sewers of the West Herts Main Drainage Authority. The major part of the Parish of Sarratt and outlying portions of the other Parishes are at present without main drainage.

During the year the Woodside Road and Orchard Avenue areas of Abbots Langley parish were sewered and resulted in 19 houses being connected to the main drainage system. A start was also made on the sewerage system for the High Cross and Round Bush areas in Aldenham Parish.

The Council are proceeding with the main drainage scheme for Sarratt parish and also with the second stage of the Bedmond sewerage scheme in Abbots Langley Parish. It is in these two areas the majority of the cesspools are situate.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection.

This service is carried out by direct labour throughout the District. Eleven refuse collection schedules are operated daily which ensures a weekly refuse collection service. Modern refuse collection vehicles mostly of the rear loading type are in use.

A Trade Refuse Collection Scheme is also in operation in respect of shop premises, and for which service an extra charge is made.

As a measure to combat the indiscriminate dumping of bulky items of house refuse in the form of mattresses, furniture, and old iron, etc., around the country lanes and open spaces, a free removal service is available, on request, to householders residing in the district. Increasing use of this service is being made but unfortunately dumping continues in the district, probably by persons who reside outside.

The Council have provided litter bins at strategic points throughout the district and these are regularly emptied.

A problem which is now becoming increasingly acute is that of the abandoned or derelict car and is one on which discussions with adjoining authorities have been held.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council have two refuse disposal sites, one at Abbots Langley and one at Aldenham where refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Cesspool Emptying.

The Council operate a cesspool emptying service throughout the district. This service is free, but the Council reserve the right to make a charge. One cesspool emptier is operated by direct labour, and the services of a contractor are also employed. Disposal of cesspool contents is by discharge into sewers.

Pail Closet emptying.

This is undertaken by direct labour in the Parishes of Abbots Langley, Aldenham and Sarratt. Pail closets are emptied weekly, properly equipped vehicles being used for collection and disposal purposes.

FOOD HYGIENE

Food Condemned.

The following is a summary of food condemned during the year:

Meat, carcase 37 lbs. Meat, canned 326 lbs. 11 ozs. Vegetables, canned 36 lbs. 11 ozs. Fruit, canned. 93 lbs. 11 ozs. Fish, 89 lbs. Miscellaneous 14 lbs. 14 ozs.

Slaughter Houses.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Food Premises.

					<i>Number of Premises</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>
Bakehouse and Bakers Shops	..	..			15	27
Butchers	..	..	..	..	23	66
Cafes and Restaurants	..	..	..		10	39
Factory Canteens	..	..	..		15	14
Grocers/General Stores	..	..	..		52	149
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	25	27
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	3	7
Fish Friers	..	..	..	..	3	7
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	25	27
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	37	50

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations (1960).

The following contraventions were remedied: —

<i>Personal Cleanliness</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
<i>Sanitary conveniences</i>								
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
<i>Premises</i>								
(a) Dirty conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
(b) Defective conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
<i>Washing Facilities</i>								
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(b) Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
<i>Equipment</i>								
(a) Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
(b) Defective and Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

The co-operation of shopkeepers has generally been forthcoming in maintaining and improving the hygienic conditions of their premises. In no case where contraventions of the Regulations were found was it necessary to recommend the Council to consider taking legal proceedings.

Milk Supply.

There are 3 dairies and 14 distributors of milk registered in the district.

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered:

(a) For Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) For Sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79

Number of inspections (including Mobile Ice Cream Vans): 61.

During the year 20 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for laboratory examination with the following results:

Grade I 12. Grade II 3. Grade III 5. Grade IV 0.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year 23 complaints were received in connection with the unsatisfactory condition of food purchased. The articles of food involved were as follows: —

Bread 3; Cakes & Biscuits 4; Cooked Food 1; Meat & Meat Products 5; Milk 2; Packeted Food 4; Tinned and bottled food 4.

The occurrences were fully investigated in consultation with the retailers and/or the manufacturers of the products concerned but the Council decided, after considering the facts, not to institute legal proceedings in any of the above cases.

Sampling.

Since the Watford Rural District is not a Food and Drugs Authority, routine sampling in the District has been carried out by the County Council

and we are indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department for the following information:

Milk: 77.

Others: 29 detailed as under.

One of each: Roast veal dinner, beef sausages (meat 52%) skinless beef sausages—meat content not less than 50% (meat 61%), beef sausages—preserved—meat content not less than 50% (meat 50%), strawberry jam, vinegar, pork brawn, shandy, cream, preserved pork sausages (meat 65%), double cream, Metatone, zinc and castor oil cream B.P., Parrish's Food B.P.C., Codeine B.P., Revitone Tonic, brisket of beef, lemon barley and dressed crab. Two samples of beef sausage meat (meat content 56% in one and not known in the other). Five samples of whisky. All were found to be genuine.

The following samples were found to be not genuine:

Pork sausage—meat 60%. Vendor cautioned.

Spray skim milk powder—contained small brown lumps which were found to be soft aggregates of burnt milk powder. Matter taken up with the Irish Republic Dairy Board.

Perk pie—discoloured matter was charred dough—Purchaser's submission. Matter dealt with between manufacturer and purchaser.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

Rodent Control.

The work done during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is recorded in the following section.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	15	15,443	194	1,728	17,380
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of a, notification, b, otherwise	a, — b, 15	306 424	7 24	8 177	321 640
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats (a) Major (b) Minor, Infest.,	a, — b, 3	— 306	— 8	— 8	— 325
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice (a) Major (b) Minor, Infest.,	a, — b, —	— 10	— —	— —	— 10
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ..	3	316	8	8	335
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment b, Structural Work	a, — b, —	— —	— —	— —	— —

- 7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4: 0.
- 8. Legal Proceedings, 0.
- 9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 4.

Sewer Control.

A 10% test of sewer manholes was carried out during the year and disclosed a small infestation in one area which was satisfactorily dealt with.

Insect and other Pests.

Advice and assistance were given in respect of enquiries regarding infestation of premises by insects, and other pests. Ant infestation was a common complaint and others concerned flies, beetles and moles. Two cases of bed bug and two of lice infestation were reported and dealt with.

Practical assistance was given in dealing with wasps nests and a total of 49 were dealt with.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year five smoke observations were carried out on factory chimneys, but in no case was any offence being committed.

It was necessary, however, to make representations to one company concerning complaints which had been received of nuisance from smoke and grit.

OFFICES AND SHOPS**Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.**

This Act came into force during the year, and the occupiers of premises in which it applies are required to register with the appropriate authority.

Registration and Inspection.

	<i>No. of Premises Redg. at end of year</i>	<i>No. of General Inspections</i>
Offices	27	7
Retail Shops	165	2
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	—
Catering Establishments	19	—
Fuel Storage Depots	4	—
<i>Total</i>	<u>215</u>	<u>9</u>

Number of visits of all kinds: 62.

Number of Employees:

<i>Class of Workplace</i>	<i>Number of persons employed</i>
Offices	230
Retail Shops	789
Wholesale departments, warehouses	—
Catering Establishments open to the public	123
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	11
<i>Total (Males 429, Females 724)</i>	<u>1,153</u>

Accidents:

3 accidents were notified in accordance with Section 48 of the Act. In each case they were of a minor nature.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961**1.—Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health.**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	27	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	6	—	—
TOTAL ..	61	33	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	2	2	—	—	—

3.—Outworkers.

(a) Sec. 133 (i) (c).

No list of outworkers has been received from any occupier of a factory situated in the rural district during the year.

(b) Sec. 134.

Details of 69 outworkers residing in the rural district were received during the year, the nature of the work they were engaged upon being as follows: —

Wearing apparel	..	..	..	..	..	51
Bottle labelling	....	..	..	..	..	2
Millinery ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Box making	..	..	..	..	..	2
Brush making	..	..	..	..	..	2
Xmas novelties	..	..	..	..	..	7
Total						69

No instance of outwork in unwholesome premises were found or brought to the department’s attention during the year, nor was any outworker found to be suffering from a notifiable disease.

MISCELLANEOUS

Disinfection.

No premises were disinfected.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

One complaint was received during the year under this act and concerned a drum band, and the matter dealt with informally.

Rag Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951.

There are no premises registered in the district under the Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Three premises are licensed in the district and each have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

This Act which came into operation on the 1st January ,1964 requires all animal boarding establishments to be licensed. Eight applications for licenses were received and granted, 18 inspections under the Act were made.